

Soroptimist and Women Power



WE STAND  UP
FOR **WOMEN!**

Who are we?

- Soroptimist International was founded in **1921** and the Medway club in **1946**
- We are part of a global volunteer movement with a network of around **72,000 club members** in **121 countries**.
- Advocating for **human rights** and **gender equality** to ensure that the **voices of women and girls** are heard.
- We work on grassroots **projects** that help women and girls **achieve** their individual and collective potential, **realise aspirations** and have an equal voice in communities worldwide.

Exhibition celebrates women uniting to help communities

Groups show girl power

is force to reckon with

By Katie May Nelson
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Girl power is going strong in towns and villages across Medway and a new event will provide an insight into how women are uniting.

Medway Archives' Women Power exhibition combines information and pictures from the Girl Guides, the Women's Institute and Medway Soroptimists.

The groups provided photos and artefacts which will showcase who they are and what they do.

Wanda Wright, from the Soroptimists, says there is a lot of the little-known social action group do to benefit both the communities they operate in and international issues.

Currently the club is raising money to help women and girls in Nepal. But previously, the group helped Kent and Essex Police to tackle human trafficking by helping them take another look at their practises and training on the issue.

Wanda, 70, of Cooling Road,



The Medway Soroptimists are an active group helping out in the community and on worldwide campaigns

High Halstow, said: "We are quite big and quite powerful, but not very well-known.

"We are very good at putting people together and with the human trafficking campaign in 2015, we put the police in touch with agencies and social services.

"What we have done has really made a difference. Our strength as a club is the fact that we are women with similar values and

principles who work together with the same objectives."

The group has 20 members who are also working with Towards Plastic Free Medway encouraging businesses to curb their use of single use plastics.

They support worthy causes including domestic violence refuges, Medway Carers and Kent Association for the Blind.

The Soroptimists started in 1921 in California and in the

ensuing years, spread around the world with the aim of raising the status and improving the rights of women.

It now operates in 102 countries and the Soroptimists consult on the work of the UN.

The Medway branch, which began in 1948, meet every second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the Holiday Inn in Maidstone Road.

They are always on the look out for new members, particularly younger people. For more go to sigbi.org/medway-towns/

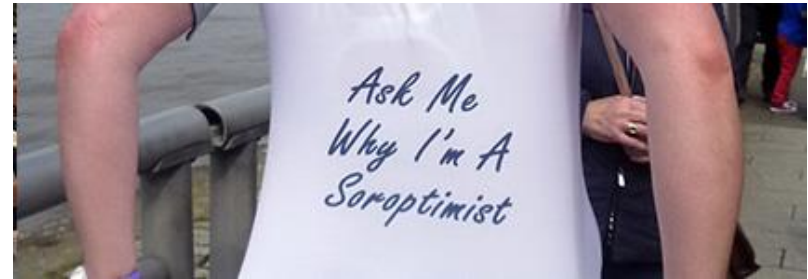
Also contributing to the exhibition is the West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes.

The WI has some 180 branches across west Kent, of which 15 are in Medway.

■ A special event takes place this coming Saturday between 11am and 3pm featuring additional displays and talks.

It coincides with International Women's Day, which is on Sunday.

Women Power is open for people to visit for free at the Medway Archive Centre in Bryant Road, Strood until May 19.



Ask Me Why I'm A Soroptimist....



A word cloud featuring various terms associated with Soroptimist International Medway Maidstone. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with the most prominent words in the center. The words include:

- Soroptimist** (largest, central)
- International** (large, below Soroptimist)
- Medway** (large, below International)
- Maidstone** (large, below Medway)
- Friendship** (large, top left)
- Action** (large, top center)
- Members** (large, top right)
- Girls** (large, top right)
- Fun** (large, top right)
- Fulfilment** (large, top right)
- Decision-making** (large, top right)
- Local** (small, top left)
- Work** (small, top left)
- Enjoy** (small, top left)
- Club** (small, top left)
- Welcome** (small, top left)
- Inspire** (small, top left)
- Meetings** (small, top left)
- National** (small, top left)
- Passion** (small, top left)
- Research** (small, top left)
- Advocacy** (small, top left)
- Programme** (small, top left)
- Dignity** (small, top left)
- Change** (small, top left)
- Challenges** (small, top left)
- Conferences** (small, top left)
- Educate** (small, top left)
- Interests** (small, top left)
- Partnership** (small, top left)
- Region** (small, top left)
- Empower** (small, top left)
- Worldwide** (small, top left)
- Projects** (small, top left)
- Enable** (small, top left)
- Focus** (small, top left)
- Awareness** (small, top left)
- Join** (small, top left)
- Women** (small, top left)
- Fund-raising** (small, top left)
- Skills** (small, top left)

74 Years of Service

Supporting
elderly

Books for prisons

Breast screening

Osteoporosis
Support Group

Supporting
refugees

Soroptimist
House

Rape Victim
Support

Women's Refuge

Crossroads Care
Scheme

Homelessness

Women in the
Community
Award

Meningitis Trust

Domestic Abuse

Child prostitution

Hand Hygiene
Surveys in
Medway Hospital

Beach cleans

What we do as Soroptimists?



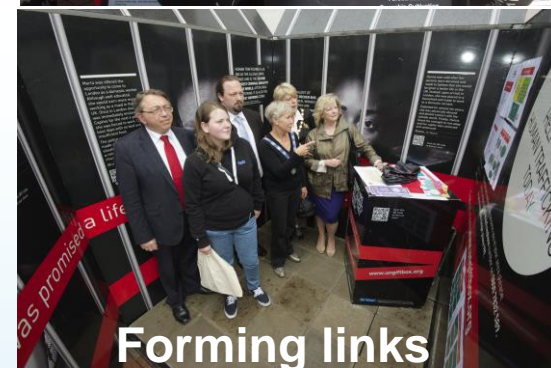
The work we do is linked to these goals, whether it is local, national or international. Our chosen areas of work in Medway are modern day slavery, domestic abuse, clean water and sanitation in poorer areas, wellbeing of people in local community and human rights of women and children.

Human Trafficking in Medway

- Leaflet drop to 1,700 homes
- Forming links with Medway Police and other agencies
- 3-day campaign in 2015 with a Gift Box in Chatham High Street
- Attracted 1,300 visitors
- 'Open Your Eyes' Conference in 2016



Raising awareness



Forming links

Open your Eyes
to Human Trafficking in Medway



We need your help to raise awareness and help the victims of Modern Slavery in Medway

Modern Slavery is a massive criminal activity (second only to drugs) and is going on right under our noses in Medway

Victims are bought and sold as a commodity and forced into

- Prostitution
- Domestic Servitude
- Benefit Fraud
- Street Crime and Forced Begging
- Grooming and Pimping
- Forced Labour
- Cannable Cultivation
- Organ Removal
- Selling their Babies

If this concerns you call:

Police 101

Leaflet



Conference

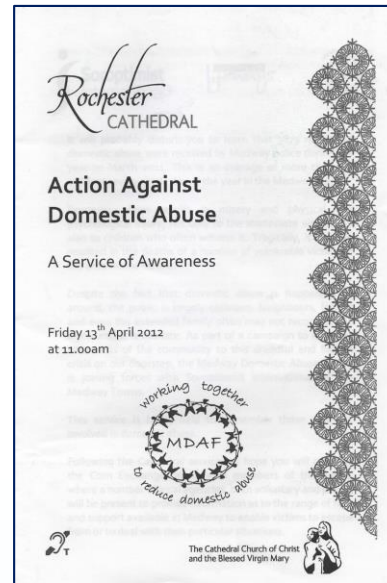


Gift Box



1300 visitors
to Gift Box

Tackling Domestic Abuse



Loves Me...

Signs of a loving relationship:

- Makes me feel safe
- Makes me feel comfortable
- Listens to me
- Values my opinions
- Supports what I want to do in life
- Is truthful with me
- Always tries to understand how I feel
- Likes that I have other friends
- Makes me laugh
- Trusts me
- Treats me as an equal
- Respects my family
- Understands my need for time alone or with family
- Accepts me as I am

Produced by Soroptimist International Medway Towns

© Soroptimist International - Yeovil and District

Loves Me Not...

- Tries to control me
- Gets violent, loses temper quickly
- Always blames me
- Doesn't understand 'No'
- Keeps me from seeing my friends and family
- Makes all the decisions
- Embarrasses me in front of others
- Hits me
- Makes me cry
- Makes me feel afraid
- Is always 'checking up' on me
- Takes my money and other things
- Threatens to leave me if I do not do as I am told
- Teases, bullies and puts me down

You DO NOT have to suffer alone. If you have any concerns about your relationship or that of a friend, talk to someone.

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk



Soroptimist on Sustainability (SOS)

Stall at Cherry Picnic



9 TIPS FOR LIVING WITH LESS PLASTIC



1 Bring your own shopping bag



2 Carry a reusable water bottle



3 Bring your own cup



4 Pack your lunch in reusable containers



5 Say no to disposable straws & cutlery



6 Skip the plastic produce bags



7 Slow down and dine in



8 Store leftovers in glass jars



9 Share these tips with your friends

LESS PLASTIC.

WWW.LESSPLASTIC.ORG.UK

Save the date



Beach clean



Plastic Free Medway
Group

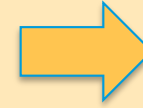


Litter Pick at Hillyfields

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP



Partnership Agreement



**Membership on
Steering Group**

**Fundraising
£335.66**



**Zisize Feeding
Programme**



Sending postcards



**Loan of
artefacts**

Classroom talks on Zisize visit

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**Working
towards
Silver Award**

**International
links with
schools**

SI Osnabruck



**Women inspiring action,
*transforming lives***



Good Health and Wellbeing



Healthy Walks



Supporting Foodbank

- Medway Soroptimists are regular supporters of Medway Foodbank
- Donations from members collected at monthly club meetings
- Members volunteer at Food Collection events



5835

three-day emergency food supplies
given to people in crisis in 2018-19



2011

the year that our foodbank opened



1 IN 5

of the UK population live below the
poverty line



Food donations



Collection 2017



Collection 2018



Collection 2019

Supporting Zisize



Medway Soroptimists supporting Zisize since 2001 'Help yourself'



Support women to
decorate orphanage



Funding for Rondavels



Sewing project



Funding towards
feeding programmes



Edwina Currie presenting
award for work with Zisize

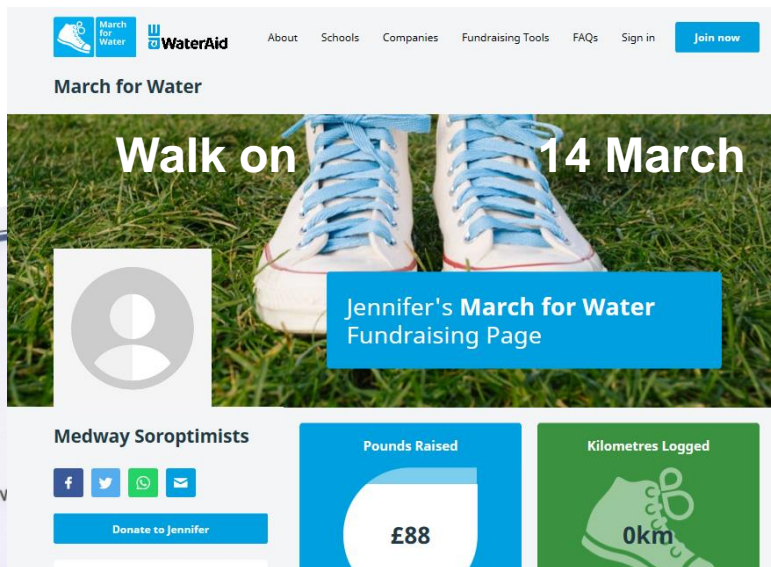


Thank you Tea for
Zisize women

Fun and Friendship in all we do....



Fundraising Events



March for Water

Walk on 14 March

Jennifer's March for Water Fundraising Page

Medway Soroptimists

Pounds Raised: £88

Kilometres Logged: 0km

Donate to Jennifer

**We
would
welcome
your
support**



Soroptimist International of the Medway Towns invite you to a Charity Preview of

When the Wind Blows

by Raymond Briggs
Directed by Mike Dickinson

A tragicomic play based on the novel and screenplay by the writer of The Snowman. This amateur production of 'When the Wind Blows' is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD a Concord Theatricals Company

to be held at **7.30 pm** on
Wednesday 1st April 2020
at the Medway Little Theatre
256 High Street
Rochester, ME1 1HY

Tickets **£8.00** each obtainable from Angela Howe at
howeangela@btinternet.com or tel: 01634 724365

Medway Little Theatre have kindly given permission for a raffle to be held and proceeds from this and the sale of tickets will be donated to KAB (Kent Association for the Blind). KAB are celebrating their centenary in 2020 and this is one of many events being held to raise both funds and awareness of the wonderful work they do.



Medway Towns Soroptimists are hosting a Charity Fashion Show

by Travelling Trends
on

Thursday 30th April 2020
7 for 7.30 pm
at

The Franklin Rooms,
65 Franklin Road, Gillingham, ME7 4DG
Price £8.00 which includes a welcome drink

To book or for further information please contact
Angela Howe on 01634 724365
Or email: howeangela@btinternet.com

Raffle prizes gratefully received



Proceeds towards 'Empowering Girls in Nepal' (www.EmpoweringGirlsInNepal.org) which is a three year collaboration between ChoraChori and Soroptimist International to support rape survivors, trafficked and vulnerable girls as they rebuild their lives.



Follow us on:



**Women inspiring action,
*transforming lives***